Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP)

For Sacramento County and cities of Sacramento,
Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt and Rancho Cordova

NOVEMBER 2009

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Glossary

Commonly Used Acronyms and Terms for the Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

Acronym/Term	*Full Name*
AGC	Associated General Contractors of California
AIA	American Institute of Architects
ALEER	Action Level Exceedance Evaluation Report
ALs	Technology -based numeric action levels
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASLA	American Society of Landscape Architects
ATS	Active Treatment System
BASMAA	Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association
BAT	Best Available Technology
BCT	Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology
BERC	Business Environment Resource Center (for Sacramento area)
BIA	Building Industry Association
BLM	Biotic Ligand Model
BMP	Best Management Practice
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CABs	Compliance Assistance Bulletins
Cal Fed	California Bay-Delta Authority
CAQ	Conservation Air Quality
CASQA	California Association of Stormwater Quality Agencies
CaWaLUP	California Water and Land Use Partnership
CBSCP	Complaint-Based Stormwater Compliance Program
CCC	California Conservation Corps
CCSD	Cosumnes Community Service District
CELSOC	Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California

CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIP	Capital Improvement Project
CISCP	Commercial and Industrial Stormwater Compliance Program
CMP	Sacramento Coordinated Monitoring Program
COC	Constituents of Concern
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CSWMP	Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
CTR	California Toxics Rule
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWBP	Clean Water Business Partner
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane
DI	Storm Drain Inlet
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOC	Dissolved Organic Carbon
DPR	California Department of Pesticide Regulation
DQEP	Data Quality Evaluation Plan
DQO	Data Quality Objective
DSP	Development Standards Plan
EHD	Environmental Health Division of the Environmental Management Department (Sacramento County)
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EMD	Environmental Management Department (Sacramento County)
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESC	Erosion and Sediment Control
FPPP	Facility Pollution Prevention Plan
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIS	Geographic Information System
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
HMD	Hazardous Materials Division of the Environmental Management Department (Sacramento County)
HMP	Hydromodification Management Plan
ICBO	International Conference of Building Officials

IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISAT	Impervious Surface Analysis
L&L	Landscaping & Lighting
LAFCo	(Sacramento) Local Area Formation Commission
LCWC	Laguna Creek Watershed Council
LID	Low Impact Development
LTE	Long Term Effectiveness
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MDL	Method Detection Limit
MEP	Maximum Extent Practicable
mg/L	milligrams per liter
µg/L	micrograms per liter
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
N/A	Not Applicable
NAWQA	National Water Quality Assessment
NEC	No Exposure Certificiation
NEL	Technology-based Numeric Effluent Limitations
NEMDC	Natomas East Main Drainage Canal
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NONA	Notice of Non-Applicability
NOTs	Notice of Termination
NOV	Notice of Violation
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NR	Natural Resources
NWQE	Notice of Water Quality Exceedance
OP	Organophosphorus (e.g., OP Pesticides)
OWOW	Our Water Our World
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCO	Pest Control Operator
PCSWQCP	Post Construction Stormwater Quality Control Plans
REAP	Rain Event Action Plan
RGO	Retail Gasoline Outlet

RMP	Risk Management Plan
ROWD	Report of Waste Discharge
RWA	Regional Water Authority
RWLs	Receiving Water Limitations
RWQE	Report of Water Quality Exceedance
SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments
SASD	Sacramento Area Sanitation District
SCS	Stormwater Compliance Section within the Water Protection Division of the Environmental Management Department (Sacramento County)_
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SPLASH	Students Protection Lake and Stream Habitats
SQIP	Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan
SRCSD	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District SRWP Sacramento River Watershed Program
SUSMP	Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SYRCL	South Yuba River Citizens League
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TIE	Toxicity Identification Evaluation
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TRE	Toxicity Reduction Evaluation
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UPC	Urban Pesticide Committee
USBR	US Bureau of Reclamation District
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WDID	Waste Discharge Identification
WEF	Water Environment Federation
WPD	Water Protection Division of the Environmental Management Department (Sacramento County)
WQOs	Water Quality Objectives
WRAPP	Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy

WSCS	Wastewater Source Control Section of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
WWPC	Water Wise Pest Control

COMMONLY USED TERMS

303(d) List : Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires that each State in the U.S. create and maintain a list of Waters of the State that are not attaining water quality standards after technology-based limits are put into place. This list is commonly referred to as the "303(d) List". In California, 303(d) Lists are developed and updated on an approximately triennial basis by the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards). For waters on this list (and where the EPA administrator deems they are appropriate) each Regional Board is to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). EPA is required to review and approve updates to each 303(d) List, or establish an alternative list.

Adverse Impact: a detrimental effect upon water quality or beneficial uses caused by a discharge or loading of a pollutant or pollutants.

Authorized Discharge: any discharge that is authorized pursuant to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or meets the conditions set forth inCalifornia Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region, Order No. R5-2008-0142, NPDES No. CAS082597...

Bacteria: Single-celled microorganisms that lack chlorophyll; some cause disease, others are necessary to sustain life.

Baseflow: Portion of stream flow that is not due to storm runoff and is supported by groundwater seepage into a channel.

Basin Plan: The *Water Quality Control Plan, Fourth Edition, for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve water quality objectives for all waters of the Basin.

Best management practice (BMP): Methods, measures, or practices designed and selected to reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to surface waters from point and nonpoint source discharges including stormwater. BMPs include structural and nonstructural controls, and operation and maintenance procedures, which can be applied before, during, and/or after pollution producing activities.

Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technologies (BCT) or Best Practicable Treatment or Control (BPTC): Requirement of State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16 – "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California" (referred to as the "Antidegradation Policy"). BPTC is the treatment or control of a discharge necessary to assure that "(a) a pollution or nuisance will not occur and (b) the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the State will be maintained."

Bioassessment (biological assessment): The use of biological community information, along with the measure of the physical/habitat quality, to determine the integrity of a water body. The EPA defines biological integrity as "*the ability of an aquatic ecosystem to support and maintain a balanced, integrated, adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity and functional organization comparable to that of the natural habitats of a region."*

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD): Quantity of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms (e.g., bacteria) during the biochemical oxidation of matter (both organic and oxidizable inorganic matter) over a specified period of time.

Biofiltration: Use of natural materials and vegetation to trap and remove pollutants from stormwater.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – Process of informing governmental agencies and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities. CEQA applies to projects undertaken, funded or requiring an issuance of a permit by a public agency.

Channel: Natural or artificial waterway that periodically or continuously contains moving water. Channels have a definite bed and banks that confine the water.

Channel erosion: Widening, deepening, and headward cutting of small channels and waterways due to erosion caused by moderate to larger floods.

Check dam: Small dam placed perpendicular to a stream to enhance aquatic habitat or placed perpendicular in swales to reduce runoff velocities, promote sediment deposition, and enhance infiltration.

Chemical oxygen demand (COD): Quantity of maximum oxidizable matter in a sample.

Clean Water Act (CWA): (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) Requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program are defined under Sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the CWA.

Commercial Facilities/Development: Related to the Commercial/Industrial Element, refer to the Environmental Management Department's Fee Ordinance (Appendix F) and related to the New Development Element, refer to the Stormwater Quality Design Manual for Sacramento and South Placer Regions.

Construction: Clearing, grading, excavating, etc. that result in soil disturbance. Construction includes structure teardown. It does not include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of facility; emergency construction activities required to immediately protect public health and safety; interior remodeling with no outside exposure of construction material or construction waste to storm water; mechanical permit work; or sign permit work.

Control: To minimize, reduce, eliminate, or prohibit by technological, legal, contractual or other means, the discharge of pollutants from an activity or activities.

Culvert: Covered channel or a large diameter pipe that crosses under a road, sidewalk, etc.

Debris: Any material, organic or inorganic, floating or submerged, moved by a flowing stream.

Design storm: Rainfall event of specified size and return frequency that is used to calculate the runoff volume and peak flows to a stormwater quality treatment facility.

Detention basin: Constructed basin that temporarily stores stormwater runoff and releases it at controlled rates.

Detention time: Time required for detention of stormwater runoff in a stormwater quality facility.

Development: Any construction, rehabilitation, redevelopment or reconstruction of any public or private residential project (whether single-family, multi-unit or planned unit development); industrial, commercial, retail and other non-residential projects, including public agency projects; or mass grading for future construction. It does not include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of facility, nor does it include emergency construction activities required to immediately protect public health and safety.

Development Standards: standards that the Permittees must develop and implement for new development and significant redevelopment projects to control the discharge of stormwater pollutants.

Discharge: Release or flow of stormwater or other substance from a conveyance system or storage container.

Dissolved oxygen: Oxygen that is present (dissolved) in water and available for use by fish and other aquatic animals.

Disturbed Area: An area that is altered as a result of clearing, grading and/or excavation.

Diversion: Channel, embankment or other man-made structure constructed to divert water from one area to another (Soil Conservation Society of America, 1982).

Drawdown: Gradual reduction in water level in a detention facility due to discharge by the outfall or combined effect of infiltration and evaporation.

Drop inlet: Entrance to the piped storm drain system designed to collect runoff from streets and pavements.

Dry weather flow: Flow occurring during the dry season (generally considered to be May through September) that may be associated with reservoir releases or releases of water from industrial, commercial, or residential activities.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - An EIR is an environmental document produced during the CEQA process to assess the significant environmental impacts of a project.

End-of-pipe control: Water quality control technologies suited for control of urban stormwater at the point of stormwater discharge to a waterway.

Energy dissipation: Loss of kinetic energy of moving water due to internal turbulence, boundary friction, change in flow direction, contraction, or expansion.

Erosion: Wearing away of land surface by wind or water. Occurs naturally from weather or runoff, but can be intensified by land-clearing practices relating to farming, residential or industrial development, road building, or timber cutting.

Floodplain: Any low land that borders a stream or waterway and is inundated periodically by its waters.

Freeboard: Vertical distance between design water surface elevation and elevation of the bank, levee or revetment that contains the water.

General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit): the general NPDES permit adopted by the State Board, which authorizes the discharge of stormwater from construction activities under certain conditions.

General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (Industrial General Permit): the general NPDES permit adopted by the State Water Board which authorizes the discharge of stormwater from certain industrial activities under certain conditions.

Grading: Cutting and/or filling of land surface to a desired slope or elevation.

Gravitational settling: Tendency of particulate matter to "drop out" of stormwater runoff as it flows downstream when runoff velocities are moderate and/or slopes are not too steep.

Groundwater table: Level below which the soil is saturated (i.e., where pore spaces between individual soil particles are filled with water).

Habitat: Place where a biological organism lives. Describes the organic and non-organic surroundings that provide life requirements such as food and shelter.

Hazardous material or substance:

1. Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.
2. Any substance named by EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or otherwise emitted into the environment.

Hazardous waste: By-products of industrial processes or society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic) or appears on special EPA lists.

Heavy metals: Metals of relatively high atomic weight, including but not limited to chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc. These metals are found in minimal quantities in stormwater, but can be highly toxic even at trace levels.

Hydrology: A scientific discipline concerned with the waters of the Earth, including their occurrence, distribution, and circulation via the hydrologic cycle and interactions with living things. It also deals with the chemical and physical properties of water in all its phases.

Hydromodification: The change in the natural watershed hydrologic processes and runoff characteristics (i.e., interception, infiltration, overland flow, interflow and groundwater flow) caused by urbanization or other land use changes that result in increased stream flows and sediment transport. In addition, alteration of stream and river channels, installation of dams and water impoundments, and excessive stream bank and shoreline erosion are also considered hydromodification, due to their disruption of natural watershed hydrologic processes.

Illicit Connection: Any man-made conveyance that is connected to the storm drain system without a permit, excluding roof drains and other similar type connections. Examples include channels, pipelines, conduits, inlets, or outlets that are connected directly to the storm drain system.

Illicit Discharge: Any discharge to the storm drain system that is prohibited under local, state, or federal statutes, ordinances, codes, or regulations. The term illicit discharge includes all non stormwater discharges except discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit, discharges that are identified in **Discharge Prohibitions** of California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region, Order No. R5-2008-0142, NPDES No. CAS082597, and discharges authorized by the Regional Water Board.

Impermeable: Properties that prevent the movement of water through the material.

Impervious surface: Material that resists or blocks the passage of water.

Industrial Facilities/Development: Related to the Commercial/Industrial Element, refer to the Environmental Management Department's Fee Ordinance (Appendix F) and related to the New Development Element, refer to the Stormwater Quality Design Manual for Sacramento and South Placer Regions.

Infiltration: The downward entry of water into the surface of the soil.

Infiltration basin: A basin where incoming stormwater runoff is stored until it gradually infiltrates through the soil of the basin floor.

Inlet: Entrance into a ditch, storm drain system, stormwater treatment facility, or other waterway.

Inspection: entry and the conduct of an on-site review of a facility and its operations, at reasonable times, to determine compliance with specific municipal or other legal requirements. The steps involved in performing an inspection, include, but are not limited to:

a. Pre-inspection documentation research;
b. Request for entry;
c. Interview of facility personnel;
d. Facility walk-through.
e. Visual observation of the condition of facility premises;
f. Examination and copying of records as required;
g. Sample collection if necessary or required;
h. Exit conference to discuss preliminary evaluation; and,
i. Report preparation, and if appropriate, recommendations for coming into compliance.

Level spreader: Device used to spread out stormwater runoff uniformly over the ground surface as sheet flow (i.e., not through channels). The purpose of level spreaders is to prevent concentrative, erosive flows from occurring and to enhance infiltration.

Low Impact Development (LID): A stormwater management and land development strategy that emphasizes conservation and the use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely reflect pre-development hydrologic functions.

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP): The technology-based standard established by Congress in CWA section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) that operators of MS4s must meet. Technology-based standards establish the level of pollutant reductions that dischargers must achieve; typically by treatment or by a combination of source control and treatment control BMPs. MEP generally emphasizes pollution prevention and source control BMPs primarily (as the first line of defense) in combination with treatment methods serving as a backup (additional line of defense). MPE considers economics and is generally, but not necessarily, less stringent than BAT. A definition for MEP is not provided either in the statute or in the regulations. Instead the municipalities propose their definition of MEP by way of their storm water management plans (SWMP). The Permittees' total collective and individual activities conducted pursuant to the storm water management plans (i.e. Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan or SQIP) becomes their proposal for MEP as it applies both to their overall effort, as well as to specific activities (e.g., MEP for street sweeping, or MEP for MS4 maintenance). For a fuller discussion of this standard see California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region, Order No. R5-2008-0142, NPDES No. CAS082597.

Method Detection Limit (MDL): The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99 percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero, as defined in 40 CFR 136, Appendix B.

Monitoring Program:Sacramento Stormwater Monitoring Program

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4): A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, alleys, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) owned by a State, city, county, town or other public body that is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, which is not a combined sewer, and which is not part of a publicly owned treatment works, and which discharges to Waters of the United States.

Natural buffer: Low sloping area of maintained grassy or woody vegetation located between a pollutant source and a waterbody. A natural buffer is formed when a designated portion of a developed piece of land is left unaltered from its natural state during development.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): The national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits under CWA §307, 402, 318, and 405.

Natural Drainage Systems: Unlined or unimproved (not engineered) creeks, streams, rivers or similar waterways.

New Development: Land disturbing activities; structural development, including construction or installation of a building or structure, and creation of impervious surfaces.

Non-stormwater discharge: Any discharge to a storm drain that is not composed entirely of stormwater. Certain non-stormwater discharges are authorized per the Sacramento NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit.

Non-structural source control measure: Low-technology, low-cost activity, procedure or management practice designed to prevent pollutants associated with site functions and activities from being discharged with stormwater runoff. Examples include good housekeeping practices, employee training, standard operating practices, inventory control measures, etc.

Notice of Intent (NOI): Formal notice to State Water Resources Control Board submitted by the owner/developer that a construction project is about to begin. The NOI provides information on the owner, location and type of project, while certifying that the permittee will comply with the conditions of the construction general permit.

NPDES Permit: Authorization, license or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved state agency to implement requirements of the NPDES program. An NPDES stormwater permit relates to discharge of stormwater runoff to waters of the United States.

Nutrients: Elements or substances such as nitrogen or phosphorous that are necessary for the growth and development of living things (e.g., plants). Large amounts of these substances reaching water bodies can lead to reduced water quality and eutrophication by promoting excessive aquatic algae growth. Some nutrients can be toxic at high concentrations.

Outfall: Point where stormwater discharges from a pipe, channel, ditch, or other conveyance to a waterway.

Partnership: Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership

Partnership Activities: Activities done regionally by the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership. Also called *regional activities*.

Partnership Program: Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership Program including regional activities implemented jointly by the permittees.

Performance Standard: A narrative or measurable number specifying the minimum acceptable outcome for a pollution control practice.

Permeability: Quality of a soil horizon that enables water or air to move through it.

Permittees: Co-Permittees and any agency named in California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region, Order No. R5-2008-0142, NPDES No. CAS082597 as being responsible for permit conditions within its jurisdiction. Permittees to California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region, Order No. R5-2008-0142, NPDES No. CAS082597 include the County of Sacramento, and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento.

Pesticide Plan: Pesticide Toxicity Control Plan

Pollutants: Those substances defined in CWA §502(6) (33.U.S.C.§1362(6)), and incorporated by reference into California Water Code §13373.

Pollution: Impairment of water quality caused by man-made waste discharges or natural processes.

Precipitation: Any form of rain or snow.

Pretreatment: Treatment of wastewater before it is discharged to a wastewater collection system.

Priority Projects: Those projects that are required to incorporate appropriate stormwater mitigation measures into the design for their respective project. Refer to the Stormwater Quality Design Manual for the Sacramento and South Placer Regions for more details.

Process wastewater: Wastewater that has been used in one or more industrial processes.

Project: All development, redevelopment, and land disturbing activities.

Rain Event or Storm Event: Any rain event greater than 0.1 inch in 24 hours except where specifically stated otherwise

Receiving Waters: All surface water bodies in the Central Valley Region that are identified in the Basin Plan.

Receiving Water Limitations (RWLs): Waste discharge requirements issued by the Regional Board typically include both: (1) “Effluent Limitations” (or “Discharge Limitations”) that specify the technology-based or water-quality-based effluent limitations; and (2) “Receiving Water Limitations” that specify the water quality objectives in the Basin Plan as well as any other limitations necessary to attain those objectives. In summary, the “Receiving Water Limitations” provision is the provision used to implement the requirement of CWA section 301(b)(1)(c) that NPDES permits must include any more stringent limitations necessary to meet water quality standards.

Redevelopment: Land-disturbing activity that results in the creation, addition, or replacement of impervious surface area on an already developed site. Redevelopment includes, but is not limited to: the expansion of a building footprint; addition or replacement of a structure; replacement of impervious surface area that is not part of a routine maintenance activity; and land disturbing activities related to structural or impervious surfaces.

Regional Water Board: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Restaurant: A facility that sells prepared foods and drinks for consumption, including stationary lunch counters and refreshment stands selling prepared foods and drinks for immediate consumption (SIC Code 5812).

Retail Gasoline Outlet (RGO): Any facility engaged in selling gasoline and lubricating oils.

Retention: Temporary or permanent storage of stormwater to prevent it from leaving the development site.

Retrofit: Creation/modification of stormwater management systems in developed areas through construction of water quality basins, stream plantings, stream bank stabilization, and other techniques for improving water quality and creating aquatic habitat. A retrofit can mean construction of a new stormwater quality treatment facility in the developed area, enhancement of an older stormwater management structure, or a combination of improvement and new construction.

Riparian: Relatively narrow strip of land that borders a stream or river, which often coincides with the maximum water surface elevation of the one-hundred year storm.

Riprap: Combination of large stones, cobbles, and boulders used to line channels, stabilize banks, reduce runoff velocities, or filter out sediment.

Run-off: Any runoff including stormwater and dry weather flows from a drainage area that reaches a receiving water body or subsurface. During dry weather it is typically comprised of base flow either contaminated with pollutants or uncontaminated, and nuisance flows.

Run-on: Stormwater or other surface flow which enters property other than that where it originated.

Scour: Concentrated erosive action of flowing water in streams that removes material from the bed and banks.

Sedimentation: Process of sand and mud settling and building up on the bottom of a creek, river, lake, or wetland.

Sediments: Soil, sand and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain, that accumulate in reservoirs, rivers and harbors, destroying aquatic animal habitat and clouding the water so that adequate sunlight might not reach aquatic plants.

Sheet flow: Water, usually storm runoff, flowing in a thin layer over the ground surface (Soil Conservation Society of America, 1982).

Slope: Degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal, measured as a percentage, a numerical ratio, or in degrees (Soil Conservation Society of America, 1982).

Source control BMP: Any schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, managerial practices or operational practices that aim to prevent stormwater pollution by reducing the potential for contamination at the source of pollution.

State Water Board: State Water Resources Control Board (California)

Storm drains: Above and below ground structures for transporting stormwater to streams or outfalls for flood control purposes.

Stormwater: Stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, surface runoff, and drainage.

Stormwater conveyance system or storm drain system: Any channel or pipe for collecting and directing stormwater.

Stormwater discharge associated with industrial activity: Discharge from any conveyance that is used for collecting and conveying stormwater which is directly related to manufacturing processing or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant [40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)].

Stormwater Permit: Sacramento Area-wide MS4 NPDES Stormwater Permit

Stormwater runoff: Excess precipitation that is not retained by vegetation, surface depressions or infiltration, which thereby collects on the surface and drains into a surface water body.

Stormwater treatment: Detention, retention, filtering, or infiltration of a given volume of stormwater to remove urban pollutants.

Stream buffer: Variable width strip of vegetated land adjacent to a stream that is preserved from development activity to protect water quality, aquatic, and terrestrial habitats.

Structural BMP: Any structural facility designed and constructed to mitigate the adverse impacts of stormwater and urban runoff pollution (e.g. canopy, structural enclosure). The category may include both Treatment Control BMPs and Source Control BMPs.

Sump: Sediment trap used as pretreatment upstream of a filtration or infiltration device. Sump can have many configurations. The word "sump" has also been used in reference to drywells.

Target Pollutants : Pollutants identified by the permittees as most likely to impair local receiving waters, based on evaluation of available monitoring data and other information that describe its surface configuration (Soil Conservation Society of America, 1982).

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): The sum of the individual waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background. A TMDL is the maximum pollutant load a waterbody can assimilate each day from all sources combined and still maintain applicable water quality standards for that pollutant.

Toxic: Related to or caused by a poison, hazardous waste or toxin.

Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE): a set of procedures to identify the specific chemical(s) responsible for toxicity. These procedures are performed in three phases (characterization, identification, and confirmation) using aquatic organism toxicity tests.

Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE): a study conducted in a step-wise process to identify the causative agents of effluent or ambient toxicity, isolate the sources of toxicity, evaluate the effectiveness of toxicity control options, and then confirm the reduction in toxicity.

Treatment: The application of engineered systems that use physical, chemical, or biological processes to remove pollutants. Such processes include, but are not limited to, filtration, gravity settling, media absorption, biodegradation, biological uptake, chemical oxidation and UV radiation.

Treatment Control BMP: Any engineered system designed to remove pollutants by simple gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, media absorption or any other physical, biological, or chemical process.

Urban runoff: Stormwater that passes through and out of developed areas to a stream or other body of water.

Vegetated filter strip: Vegetated section of land designed to accept runoff as overload sheet flow from upstream development. A vegetated filter strip differs from a natural buffer in that the strip is not "natural;" rather, it is designed and constructed specifically for pollutant removal.

Vegetated swale: An earthen conveyance system in which the filtering action of grass and soil infiltration are utilized to remove pollutants from urban stormwater. An enhanced grass swale, or biofilter, utilizes check dams and wide depressions to increase runoff storage and promote greater settling of pollutants.

Velocity: Distance that water travels in a given direction in a stream during an interval of time.

Watershed or drainage basin: Geographic area within which all surface water drains into a particular body of water (e.g., a river or stream).

Water Quality Standards and Water Quality Objectives: Water quality criteria contained in the Basin Plan, the National Toxics Rule, the California Toxics Rule, and other state or federally approved surface water quality plans. Such plans are used by the Regional Board to regulate all discharges, including stormwater discharges.

Waters of the State: any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within boundaries of the state.

Waters of the United States:

a. All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;

b. All interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;

c. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:

    1. Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;

    2. From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or

    3. Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;

d. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;

e. Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this definition;

f. The territorial sea; and

g. Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraph (a) through (f) of this definition.

Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR 423.22(m), which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States. This exclusion applies only to man-made bodies of water, which neither were originally created in waters of the United States (such as disposal area in wetlands) nor resulted from the impoundment of waters of the United States. Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the CWA, the final authority regarding CWA jurisdiction remains with U.S. EPA.

Wet Season: The calendar period beginning October 1 and ending April 30.

Weir: Structure that extends across the width of a channel and is intended to impound, delay or in some way alter the flow of water through the channel. Dams of any kind, including check dams, are considered weirs.

Wet weather flow: Water derived primarily from rain, melting snow or irrigation during the wet season (generally considered to be October through April) that flows over the ground surface.